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2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Finland

Introduction

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential element of international security. Finland is strongly committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The three pillars are of equal importance and mutually reinforcing. All States parties share a collective responsibility to maintain the Treaty's credibility by achieving its goals.

2. Finland reaffirms its commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in all its aspects and the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons. The universalization of the Treaty and full compliance with the Treaty's provisions are of utmost importance.

3. Step 12 of the 13 practical steps agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons calls for regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of decision 2 adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament". This call was reiterated in action 20 of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference. In line with this commitment, and with a view to contributing to transparency and building confidence, Finland submits the present report focusing on the national implementation of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference.

Nuclear disarmament

4. Finland welcomes the efforts made by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals. However, several thousand nuclear weapons still exist, and we call upon nuclear-weapon States to negotiate and finalize further and deeper cuts in their nuclear arsenals, including tactical/non-strategic nuclear weapons, without

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further delay. Finland continues to urge the nuclear-weapon States to fully implement their obligations under article VI of the Treaty and to engage in negotiations on further steps towards nuclear disarmament. Finland appreciates the coordination, further transparency and confidence-building among the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty and their efforts in producing a nuclear disarmament glossary. This work can pave the way for further steps in nuclear disarmament.

5. Finland is of the view that security cannot be based on nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and recalls that, in accordance with the 2010 action plan, all States parties are committed to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

6. Finland expresses its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. Finland participated in the three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, hosted by the Governments of Norway, Mexico and Austria, respectively. The three conferences further enhanced our common understanding of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. At the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Finland joined the two statements on the humanitarian consequences, which it considers complementary and mutually reinforcing. Eliminating nuclear weapons is only possible through substantive and constructive engagement with those States that possess nuclear weapons.

7. The stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament remains a serious concern. This historically productive and valuable body should once again begin its work and start negotiating disarmament treaties. Finland has called for a revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament by reviewing its working methods as well as by enlarging its membership, while at the same time aiming for consensus-building.

8. Finland attaches great importance to the prompt launching of the negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes. Finland is pleased to have been able to provide expertise for the work of the group of governmental experts on the fissile material cut-off treaty. This work should lay the ground for future efforts on the treaty.

9. Finland participated as a "friend of the Chair" in the work of the Open-ended Working Group created by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/56 to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. The Working Group delivered its consensus report (A/68/514) to the General Assembly in the fall of 2013.

10. The Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja, participated in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament held in September 2013.

11. Finland considers the promotion of the entry into force and implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to be of the utmost urgency as a key non-proliferation and disarmament measure. As one of the "friends of the CTBT", Finland has underlined the importance of the entry into force of the Treaty by co-organizing the Ministerial Meeting in Support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on the margins of the General Assembly. Finland has participated actively in the work of the Preparatory Commission and its subsidiary working

groups. A primary seismological station and a radionuclide laboratory are located on Finnish territory as part of the international monitoring system.

12. As civil society should be an integral part of disarmament and non-proliferation discussions, Finland has encouraged and supported the participation of civil society in the proceedings of the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Open-ended Working Group and the humanitarian initiative.

13. In accordance with action 22 of the 2010 action plan, Finland has implemented the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/124) regarding the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education by forming and funding a study trip for a group representing a new generation of scholars in disarmament and non-proliferation studies.

Nuclear non-proliferation

14. Nuclear-weapon proliferation continues to be a serious concern and the international community should take appropriate measures in the cases of non-compliance in order to preserve the integrity of the non-proliferation regime and its cornerstone, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

15. The international safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an indispensable part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Finland has consistently underlined that the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, should be accepted universally as the international verification standard. Finland considers that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, represents the verification standard pursuant to article III (1) of the Treaty. Finland calls upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and to ratify the Additional Protocol without delay.

16. Finland has concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA and has signed and ratified the Additional Protocol.

17. Finland supports further implementation of the IAEA safeguards system based on the State-level concept. Consistent and universal implementation of the State-level concept will further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards system and will thus contribute to global non-proliferation efforts.

18. In Finland, new nuclear power plants and new types of nuclear facilities, like the final disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel and its encapsulation plant, are under licensing and construction. Finland is implementing Safeguards by Design, which brings the IAEA safeguards in at a very early phase of nuclear facility planning and design, starts the discussion between supplier, State and IAEA and confirms the effective implementation of safeguards in the new facility. The new and new type of facilities will meet strict safety, security and safeguards requirements, which creates overall safety of the facilities during their lifetime.

19. Finland continues to provide extrabudgetary support to the IAEA safeguards. Through the National Safeguards Support Programme, Finland has contributed €863,000 to the IAEA safeguards since 2010.

20. Finland has provided a financial contribution of €400,000 for the implementation of IAEA monitoring and verification activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to the Joint Plan of Action. Finland strongly supports the ongoing efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and the work of IAEA under the Framework for Cooperation.

21. Finland is a member of all relevant export control regimes, such as the Nuclear Supplier Group and the Zangger Committee, and supports the strengthening of their guidelines and understandings. Finland welcomes increasing adherence to export controls with a view to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

22. Finland supports Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and is committed to its effective implementation. In this regard, Finland is implementing European Union regulation No. 428/2009 on control of experts at the national level. Finland has also enhanced coordination between national authorities and raised awareness about proliferation risks and about the Council resolution among State authorities and the public. Finland has provided assistance to other States through contributions to the Group of Eight Global Partnership.

23. Since 2010, Finland has contributed over €1.5 million to the Second Line of Defence programme under the Nuclear Smuggling Outreach Initiative. For example, in 2014 Finland's contributions were channelled to Second Line of Defence implementation efforts at the vehicle border crossing stations along Ukraine's border with the Republic of Moldova.

24. Finland is strongly committed to strengthening nuclear security worldwide. Finland has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and encourages all States to do so. Finland continues to provide financial and in-kind support to the IAEA nuclear security activities. Since 2010, Finland has contributed €250,000 to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

25. The Nuclear Security Summit process has contributed to the visibility of the issue and brought it to the highest political level. Finland has actively taken part in the Nuclear Security Summit process and in other relevant international processes. Combating nuclear terrorism is a priority and Finland contributes to this work by hosting the plenary of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, to be held in June 2015.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

26. Finland exercises the right under article IV of the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with articles I, II and III. Nuclear power is an important part of Finland's national energy mix.

27. Finland is a strong supporter of IAEA as it is a key player in guaranteeing that countries developing their capacities in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy do so under the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. Even at times of economic and budgetary constraint, Finland has supported programme-driven funding for IAEA and paid its assessed contributions to the IAEA regular budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time. In addition to the regular assessed contributions. Finland has provided extrabudgetary funding and in-kind support for IAEA.

28. For Finland, nuclear safety is an issue that is global in nature and strengthening nuclear safety deserves the commitment of all States parties to the Treaty. Finland is a State party to all international conventions in the field of nuclear safety. Finland attaches great importance to further improvement of nuclear safety and has consistently supported the IAEA activities in this area.

29. Furthermore, Finland supports rapid and complete implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which was adopted in September 2011. The plan contains useful tools to strengthen nuclear safety, such as conducting peer review missions on a regular basis and greater transparency by national authorities in the publication of their reports. Finland has made extensive use of the IAEA safety services and encourages other States to make full use of them.

30. Finland became a member of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in 2011.

The Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East

31. In support of the Treaty and the implementation of the 2010 action plan, Finland offered to host the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in 2012. Finland was chosen as the host country and in October 2011, Under-Secretary of State Jaakko Laajava from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland was appointed by the Secretary-General and the co-conveners as the facilitator for the Conference, to be held in Helsinki.